



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/34/587/Add.1, 2
23 November 1979

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-fourth session
Agenda item 70

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Matters requiring consideration by the General Assembly
at its thirty-fourth session

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

III. ORGANIZATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF SECRETARIAT SUPPORT

1. Paragraph 103 of the Programme of Action adopted by the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development 1/ states that "there is need for secretariat support whose head should be at a high level to assist the Director-General /for Development and International Economic Co-operation/ in providing the necessary assistance to the Intergovernmental Committee /for Science and Technology for Development/ and in co-ordinating science and technology activities within the United Nations system ..." and requests that "the Director-General, under the authority of the Secretary-General, should provide to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session a report on the organizational and financial implications".

2. The Secretary-General submits herewith the report as prepared by the Director-General in response to this request.

1/ A/CONF.81/16 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.21), chap. VII.

ANNEX

Organizational implications of secretariat support

Introduction

1. Paragraph 101 of the Programme of Action, dealing, *inter alia*, with arrangements for the functioning of the proposed Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, provides that "the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation should be entrusted with the co-ordination of the contributions of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations as well as of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency".
2. Paragraph 103 of the same document further provides that "the Director-General ... should, within the framework of his mandate as defined by the General Assembly in its resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977 and 33/202 of 29 January 1979, be responsible for exercising over-all co-ordination, at the Secretariat level within the United Nations system, in science and technology. In this connexion, there is need for secretariat support whose head should be at a high level to assist the Director-General in providing the necessary assistance to the Intergovernmental Committee and in co-ordinating science and technology activities within the United Nations system ...".
3. The same paragraph of the Programme of Action requests that "the Director-General, under the authority of the Secretary-General, should provide to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session a report on the organizational and financial implications. Taking into account the report, the General Assembly should allocate the resources, human and financial, necessary to provide for such a secretariat, drawing to the fullest extent possible on resources already existing within the United Nations, including the posts and budgetary resources of the Office for Science and Technology". This paper, which has been drawn up in response to the above-quoted request, deals with the organizational implications and the initial personnel resource requirements. The financial implications will be the subject of a separate statement in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

A. Arrangements at the United Nations Secretariat level

(i) Framework of guiding considerations

4. The organizational arrangements to be made pursuant to paragraph 103 of the Programme of Action should be undertaken within the framework of the principal foci of the Programme, namely, strengthening science and technology capacities of developing countries; restructuring the existing pattern of international scientific and technological relations; and strengthening the role of the United Nations system in the field of science and technology and the provision of increased

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financial resources for this purpose. They should also be framed in the context of the general commitment by all Member States to treat science and technology as an integral part of the New International Economic Order and the need to support effectively the development objectives and priorities agreed upon by countries, especially the developing countries. They should, in the same context, be guided by the emphasis placed in the Programme of Action on the modification and, if necessary, redefinition of objectives, policies and criteria of the component organizations, and on the effective harmonization of the objectives and policies just mentioned; on greater cohesiveness and co-ordination of activities in order to maximize their benefits and the contribution of the system in this area; and the adoption by the organizations of the United Nations system of measures to achieve the objectives of particular importance to developing countries, set out in paragraph 106 of the Programme of Action.

5. In addition they should reflect, and be fully supportive of, the main new features of the institutional arrangements recommended by the Conference. In this connexion, reference should be made to the decisions of the Conference to set in motion new global financial arrangements beginning with the establishment of an interim fund to be sustained by voluntary contributions, in order to assist in the implementation of the measures envisaged in the Programme of Action. Policy guidance in respect of these arrangements is to be provided by the Intergovernmental Committee, which would in addition exercise a number of policy co-ordination and priority setting functions of system-wide scope, covering both regular programme activities and activities financed by extrabudgetary resources.

6. The responsibilities of the Intergovernmental Committee are distinguished by their integrated approach to all activities within the United Nations system in the field of science and technology, whether financed from regular budget or through extrabudgetary resources, including the Interim Fund. Secretariat support for the Committee must in turn address and support the discharge of the whole range of the responsibilities falling within the purview of the Intergovernmental Committee. The corresponding tasks at the secretariat level will accordingly involve the analysis and synthesis, drawing on the inputs of all organizations and entities concerned, of both research, on the one hand, and operational activities, on the other; both interdisciplinary work and activities in specific subject areas, including negotiations undertaken in different United Nations organs, such as the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization; and both economic and technical co-operation among developing countries.

7. The organizational arrangements to be made should also be considered against the background of the broad responsibilities of the Director-General, as outlined in General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 33/202. These responsibilities encompass the exercise of over-all co-ordination within the United Nations system and establishing policy-related guidelines to ensure, within the United Nations, the coherence, co-ordination and efficient management of all activities in the economic and social fields. In line with the above-mentioned responsibilities which apply generally to all subject areas in the economic and social fields, the

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Programme of Action envisages three distinct but interrelated functions: a/

(a) Provision of substantive support to the Intergovernmental Committee, including the co-ordination of the contributions to that Committee by the organizations of the United Nations system;

(b) Co-ordination at the secretariat level of science and technology activities within the United Nations system;

(c) Provision of support to the intergovernmental group of experts to be established by the General Assembly to study all relevant arrangements for a long-term financing system for science and technology for development.

8. Finally, account should be taken of the stress laid in the Programme of Action on the need, with reference to the institutional reforms thus far undertaken within the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, for "new arrangements ... to provide the required framework for international decisions and co-ordinated actions designed to complement national efforts of developing countries to develop their capabilities and enhance the contributions of science and technology for their development". b/

(ii) Tasks to be carried out by the secretariat support capability

9. On the basis of the considerations outlined above and taking into account the arrangements for interorganization co-operation described below, the tasks of the secretariat support capability which is envisaged in paragraph 103 of the Programme of Action would be twofold:

(a) To undertake, under policy-related guidelines established by the Director-General, the necessary preparations, in co-operation with the organizations concerned, for the Committee's deliberations and decision-making processes, c/ including the preparation of analyses, studies and syntheses of contributions, for consideration by the Committee in the discharge of its responsibilities in regard to substantive and operational activities;

(b) To provide assistance to the Director-General, pursuant to the directives of the General Assembly and of the Committee, in the discharge of the functions as outlined in paragraph 7 above, including in particular those functions relating to:

a/ Ibid., paras. 101, 103 and 117 (b).

b/ Ibid., chap. VII, paras. 83 and 84.

c/ This will include substantive support for the Committee's advisory mechanisms, drawing upon, inter alia, inputs from the organizations of the system.

- (i) Formulation of options and alternative courses of action for consideration by the Committee in the exercise of its policy-making and co-ordination functions;
- (ii) Harmonization of the science and technology objectives and policies of the various components of the United Nations system, and the promotion, at the secretariat level, of the co-ordinated implementation of the Programme of Action;
- (iii) Preparation of policy guidance for the implementation of the objectives of the financial arrangements for science and technology for development, including the co-ordination of support to the intergovernmental group of experts on the study of the long-term financial system;
- (iv) Promotion on a system-wide basis of mutual support and effective interaction between operational activities and research and policy analysis activities in the field of science and technology, including the necessary policy and programme harmonization between activities financed by the regular budget and those financed by extrabudgetary resources.

10. These functions would be carried out in close co-operation with, and drawing on inputs from, the relevant elements of the United Nations and of the United Nations system as a whole, and by maintaining the necessary links with the scientific and technological community and appropriate governmental and intergovernmental organizations dealing with science and technology.

(iii) Organizational arrangements and related resource requirements

11. On the basis of the considerations outlined above, and in the light of the relevant discussions at the Conference, it is suggested that a new and organizationally distinct secretariat of the Intergovernmental Committee for Science and Technology for Development be established within the United Nations Secretariat.

12. This structural arrangement, providing for the closest possible linkage between the secretariat capability and the Intergovernmental Committee, will enable the new secretariat to address and support in an integrated way the discharge of the whole range of responsibilities falling within the purview of the Intergovernmental Committee. It will also enable the secretariat to concentrate exclusively on the performance of its task of providing substantive support to the Committee, including assistance in promoting the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the relevant decisions of the Intergovernmental Committee. It reflects the novelty of the combination of tasks involved, which straddle the different sets of functions currently assigned to the various organizational entities comprising the United Nations. Finally, it responds to

the wide concern expressed at the Conference that the secretariat support for the Intergovernmental Committee, as well as the content of science and technology programmes within the United Nations system, should have a high degree of visibility, identity, specificity and impact.

13. Taking into account the character of the two sets of functions set out in paragraph 9 above, the new secretariat would bear the same relationship to the Director-General's Office as all other entities within the United Nations in the economic and social fields. This relationship is defined in paragraph 64 (b) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 and section IV, paragraph 5 (c), of Assembly resolution 33/202.

14. The tasks to be carried out by the new secretariat would not replace or duplicate technical, analytical or operational functions exercised by the organizations of the United Nations system. Arrangements envisaged for the purpose of ensuring effective interorganization co-operation within the United Nations system are set out in paragraphs 19 to 21 below.

15. Within the United Nations proper, existing organizational entities, including UNCTAD, UNIDO, the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the Department for International Economic and Social Affairs (with particular reference to its functions as outlined in paragraph 61 (a) and (b) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197), will accordingly retain, reorient or strengthen, as necessary, the sectoral as well as intersectoral capabilities required to enable them to respond effectively to the substantive requirements of the Programme of Action and to promote the application of science and technology in areas coming within their purview. As regards the activities of the new secretariat, measures will need to be worked out to ensure the avoidance of duplication and to provide for the full utilization of, and mutually supportive relationships with, other organizational entities within the United Nations. To this end, the establishment is envisaged of an interdepartmental consultative arrangement, comprising the heads of all the organizational entities concerned, which would be serviced by the new secretariat, and which would be chaired by the Director-General or, in his absence, by one of the above-mentioned officials, depending on the subject-matter. It should, in addition, be noted that the responsibility for the provision of "technical secretariat services" in accordance with paragraph 61 (e) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 will remain with the Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters.

16. While it is envisaged that some posts can be obtained for the new secretariat through a redeployment of resources presently available to the Office for Science and Technology, d/ the exact number of posts that can be so redeployed will depend

d/ An Office for Science and Technology has thus far formed part of the Department for International Economic and Social Affairs, but its future disposition has been left in abeyance pending the outcome of the Conference on Science and Technology for Development (A/33/410/Rev.1, paras. 78 and 79).

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on a review by the Department for International Economic and Social Affairs of its requirements in relation to those elements of the Programme of Action coming within its terms of reference. It is suggested, therefore, that the General Assembly at the present stage should establish only the post of the head of the new secretariat at the level of Under-Secretary-General or Assistant Secretary-General, as may be considered appropriate, and that the following new temporary posts should be provided for 1980: 1 D-2, 1 D-1, 2 P-5 and 3 P-3/4 and the appropriate General Service staff; and in addition that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions should be authorized at its spring session, in the light of the possibilities of redeployment and of proposals that may be developed following the appointment of the head of the new secretariat, to take such further action as may be necessary. Provision will also be required for consultant services during 1979, covering the specialized disciplines already indicated (A/34/587, para. 27), for the purpose of supporting the work of the intergovernmental group of experts envisaged in paragraph 117 (b) of the Programme of Action.

17. A review is being undertaken of the resource requirements of other United Nations entities, including the regional commissions as well as the Office of the Director-General, arising from the various tasks set forth in the Programme of Action, and any additional resource requests resulting from this review will be conveyed to the Advisory Committee.

18. The organizational arrangements outlined above may need to be reviewed in two years' time, in the light of experience and of other relevant decisions of the General Assembly concerning long-term financing arrangements.

B. Arrangements for interorganization co-operation

19. The effective implementation of the Programme of Action requires that each organization concerned with science and technology should strengthen its activities in the area of science and technology for development and expand its capacity to absorb and utilize the increasing resources to be made available through the new financing arrangements. Thus, the organizational arrangements set out in the preceding section are not intended to replace or duplicate technical or operational capabilities and functions exercised by the organizations of the system; rather, they should be seen as a means of promoting increased action by each of its components and as an analytical and substantive facility to assist the Director-General in carrying out his mandate as it relates to science and technology, and more particularly the functions in paragraph 7 above.

20. In carrying out his responsibilities, the Director-General will draw fully on the organizations of the United Nations system responsible for the implementation of the Programme of Action. He will also utilize fully, in the exercise of his co-ordination functions, the facilities available or to be made available for this purpose within the machinery of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC). In this connexion, it has been agreed that ACC should take appropriate action to contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action through the strengthening of existing consultative mechanisms within the ACC

framework. These strengthened mechanisms would make arrangements for promoting, firstly, the concerted execution of the various components of the Programme of Action, including co-ordination, as appropriate, between regular programmes and technical co-operation activities and, secondly, where warranted by the intersectoral nature of the actions called for under the Programme of Action, the joint execution of activities and projects, including the designation of lead agencies for particular activities.

21. It has been further agreed that the advice and assistance required by the Director-General of the organizations of the United Nations system and the secretariat support that would be needed by the consultative mechanisms referred to above should be provided on a continuous and systematic basis through the establishment of a joint interagency task force. Agencies not taking part in the work of the task force on a continuous basis would be associated with its activities in areas of interest to them.